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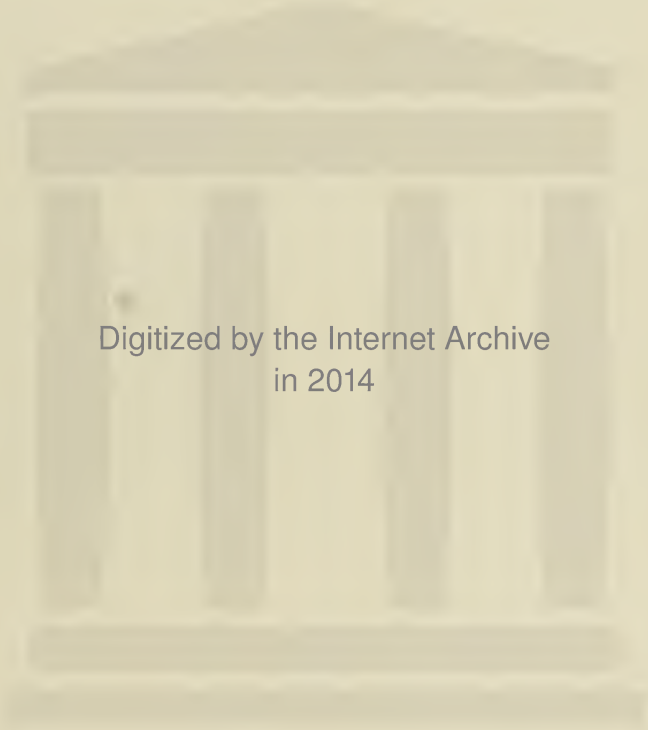
CENTENNIAL SERVICE

CALVARY CHURCH

WADESBORO, N. C.

DECEMBER 26, 1920



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Showing Outside of Church, With Stone Wall Erected by the Women of Calvary Parish in 1920

Centennial Service

Calvary Church

WADESBORO, N. C.

DECEMBER 26, 1920

Rev. Basil M. Walton, *Rector*

VESTRY

Mr. Julius A. Little, *Senior Warden*

Mr. Wm. L. Marshall, *Junior Warden*

Mr. Jas. S. Webb, *Treasurer*

Mr. James A. Leak

Mr. James A. Hardison

Mr. Fred J. Coxe

Mr. E. N. Baker

Mr. Frank L. Dunlap

Mr. Wm. T. Paisley

Mr. A. B. Clark

Mr. Wm. C. Hardison

JANUARY FIRST, 1923

Rev. John F. Hamaker, *Rector*

VESTRY

Mr. Julius A. Little, *Senior Warden*

Mr. Wm. L. Marshall, *Junior Warden*

Mr. Jas. S. Webb, *Treasurer*

Mr. James A. Leak

Mr. E. N. Baker

Mr. R. T. B. Little

Mr. Pines Murray

Mr. James A. Hardison

Mr. Wm. C. Hardison

CHOIR

Mrs. R. E. Little, *Organist*

Mrs. J. D. Leak

Mrs. Jno. T. Bennett

Mrs. Pembroke Wyatt

Mrs. Sadie M. Leak

Mr. E. N. Baker

Mr. E. V. Fenton

Miss Kate Leak

CROSS-BEARER

Wm. Leak Marshall, Jr.

12/19/34
7 Leaves

CENTENNIAL CEREMONIES

FOREWORD

AS the first service ever held in Wadesboro, North Carolina, which resulted in the establishment of what was afterwards known as Calvary Episcopal Church, was held in July, 1820, hence, the one hundredth anniversary came in the same month of 1920. The latter date fell at an uncomfortably heated season, when a number of the parishioners were away, and first one thing and another preventing during the autumn season, the anniversary exercises were finally held on the Sunday after Christmas, being December 26th, 1920. The Rev. Basil M. Walton, then rector of the Parish, was in charge of the service, being assisted by the Rev. E. A. Osborne of Charlotte, who was the only visiting clergyman present. Having had a full attendance at the celebration of the Holy Communion on Christmas Day, our anniversary service took the form of full morning prayer, with the history of the Parish, which follows, read by the writer, Mrs. John D. Leak, in place of a sermon. At the completion of the service, when the full-vested choir led by the cross-bearer, William Leak Marshall, Jr., had marched down the main aisle, and the amen had been said to the recessional, the Rev. E. A. Osborne, read that part of the service which consecrated to Almighty God, the brownstone wall which had been built in 1920, by the women of the Parish, "in loving memory of the faithful departed" during the past century. Following this, the visitors from other towns were taken to the homes of the various members of the Parish for dinner, and the occasion in full, will long be remembered as one of the most interesting in the history of Calvary Church, which is said to be one of the four oldest Episcopal churches in North Carolina. Like many another church, it has seen one of its former rectors promoted to the Bishopric; it has furnished brave soldiers for two noted military conflicts, and counted among its parishioners many consecrated men and women. The stars on our service flag for the late World War represented the names of sixteen

P61556

courageous young men, mostly born and reared in our Parish, and two young women, one of whom entered a government hospital at Spartanburg, S. C., to care for the sick and dying at Camp Wadsworth, the other seeing service at the national capital. Thanks be to God, they all came back, to take up anew the battle of life, and, we trust, to enlist with readier zeal and consecration under the banner of Christ.

An account of the anniversary exercises would be incomplete without special reference to the beautiful Christmas decorations, with the soft altar lights gleaming through, and the inspiring music, which included—"The Church's One Foundation," "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," "Jesus Shall Reign Wher'er the Sun," and other beautiful hymns and anthems. Mrs. R. E. Little was at the organ, and the full-vested choir amply did its part in making the celebration everything that could be desired. A deep interest in these exercises extended beyond the Parish, as there was a large congregation, the many visitors present being most welcome and cordially greeted, bearing out to a greater degree than ever, the high standard of hospitality and brotherly love that has characterized Calvary Church, Wadesboro, in the past, and may, we trust, continue to a manifold degree, till one by one, God calls us to be "numbered with the saints in glory everlasting."

HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF CALVARY CHURCH

By Mrs. John D. Leak

IN an effort to gather information relative to the establishment of Calvary Episcopal Church, in Wadesboro, N. C., one hundred years ago, I find 1820 to have been a noted one in the annals of the world. Particularly so, in regard to the distinguished women who date back to this period. Florence Nightingale, who blessed the world with her ministry to the suffering, Jenny Lind, famed forever as one of the world's greatest singers, and Fanny Crosby, the most noted natural hymn writer of the past century, were all born that year. General Lafayette was soon to visit America for the last time, and James Monroe was President of the United States. Only four others had occupied the presidential chair and three of them were living. Four of the signers of the Declaration of Independence still survived. The second war with England was still fresh in the minds of our people and Andrew Jackson, one of its heroes, was soon to become President of the United States. The great missionary movement was in its infancy, and the very year the mission afterwards known as Calvary Church, Wadesboro, was established, the famous Missouri Compromise with reference to the slavery question became a law. From what I have read of the history of religious life in those days, I find all religious bodies had their problems. The spirit of controversy was in the air and pioneers were blazing the way. Wars and rumors of wars were common, and it is but natural that the churches should have been affected. Turning to the first church records which for a number of years have been carefully preserved by our venerable and esteemed senior warden, Mr. Julius A. Little, I find that in the year 1820 the Rev. Andrew Fowler, of the Diocese of South Carolina, being sent to Cheraw in that diocese, as a missionary, occasionally visited Wadesboro, twenty-five miles away, preaching at the village academy which stood about where the oldest citizen of our town, Mrs. Jane Coppedge, now lives. He also distributed Prayer Books, which he

P61556

explained in conversation from house to house. From old Parish journals we gather these services were the first ever held in the present Parish. The only sacramental act found recorded as being performed by said Andrew Fowler, was the baptizing of Frances Rebecca, infant daughter of Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Anne A. Parke, the sponsors for whom were the parents of the child, and Mrs. Effie McLaurin Shepherd, who was my maternal grandmother and was the first communicant of Calvary Church. She was born in Argylshire, Scotland, and emigrated to this country at an early age, was married to my grandfather, Augustine Shepherd of Fluvanna County, Virginia, and they came further south to live, finally settling in Wadesboro, and were devoted members of Calvary Church for nearly half a century. In October, 1820, the congregation was again visited by the Revs. Andrew Fowler and Thomas Wright, the latter being invited to return and take charge of the Parish, which he did in July, 1821, when he effected a permanent organization, giving it the name of Calvary Church. September 21st, 1823, the Rt. Rev. John Stark Ravenscroft, Bishop of the diocese, made his first visit here and confirmed the following persons:

> Miss Elizabeth Auld, Mrs. Anne A. Parke, Mrs. Harriet H. Strong, Mrs. Jane Bell, Mrs. Martha King, Miss Mary Rutland, Mrs. Anne Caroline Hall, Mrs. Harriet H. Chambers, Miss Rosanna Troy, Mr. Geo. W. Hathaway and Col. William Dismukes,

eleven in all, and several of them were for many years pillars of the church. I have heard my mother and other people say that Mrs. Anne C. Hall was a woman of wonderful mentality and sublime faith, who was left a widow at an early age, and though enduring great sorrow and some privations owing to her limited means, ever kept a brave, courageous spirit and reared her family in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, "Line upon line, and precept upon precept," being her motto. She was born October 30th, 1804; died August 29th, 1873, and is buried here beside her husband, Dr. William Weldon Hall, who died in 1836.

Mrs. Harriet Strong was also a consecrated Christian. She formerly owned Carr's Mount where the silk mill now stands, and despite the distance which separated her from the church, was faithful and regular in her attendance. Again I've heard my mother say that during the War Between the States, when certain things were almost unobtainable, Mrs. Strong was frequently seen at church wearing a fresh, clean sunbonnet. She adopted as her own child, Miss Phoebe Willoughby, afterwards Mrs. John H. Williamson, of this Parish, later moved with them to Alabama, and is buried in Scottsville. The beautiful brass lectern upon which our elegant new Bible rests, was given by my mother not long before her death as a memorial to her mother and father and Mrs. Harriet Strong, and bears the following inscriptions:

"IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Augustine Shepherd, 1789-1864,
for a long time Senior Warden of Calvary Church,
and his wife,
Effie McLaurin Shepherd, 1790-1863,
First Communicant of Calvary Church
and of
Mrs. Harriet Harrington Strong, 1795-1870,
A Mother in Israel!"

To return to the early records, we find that in May, 1827, the Rev. Charles P. Eliot is rector of the parish, though at what time the former incumbent, Rev. Thomas Wright, resigned, is not stated. July 10th, 1828, Bishop Ravenscroft made his fifth and last visitation and baptized by immersion Mrs. Flora Pickett.

During October, 1828, Rev. Mr. Eliot resigned and removed to Raleigh, and the Rev. Mr. Wright, then in charge of St. Luke's, Salisbury, visited our Parish occasionally.

This year, Bishop Ravenscroft died. September, 1831, the Rt. Rev. Levi Silliman Ives made his first visit to Wadesboro and consecrated the church edifice, which had lately been finished, being assisted by Rev. Mr. Wright, still in charge of the Parish, and the Rev. Alexander Marshall, rector of St. David's, Cheraw. The lot on which the church was erected was purchased from Thos. D. Parke by Rev. Thos. Wright, who deeded it to "Thos. D. Parke, William Dismukes, Absalom Myers, Jno. A. McRae, Alex W. Brandon, Daniel McIver and William W. Hall, Vestry Wardens and Trustees of Calvary Episcopal Church. The deed was registered on August 28, 1832. Thos. D. Parke had purchased this lot from Moses and Lydia Boggan Coppedge, February 17, 1826.

This brings us up to 1832, during which year the Rev. Thomas F. Davis, a deacon, but afterwards made Bishop of South Carolina, took charge of our parish, along with the one at Pittsborough. In December, 1833, Mr. Davis, having accepted a call to Wilmington, resigned. August, 1834, Rev. Samuel I. Johnson came to Wadesboro, and remained for three years. March 11th, 1838, Rev. John Burke took charge, and held it until January, 1839. In March of this year, Rev. William Wiley came to minister to our flock, but ill health soon forced his retirement. July, 1840, Rev. Edwin Geer, then a deacon, and a splendid young man, assumed the rectorship, and remained for five years, serving most acceptably, and having a devoted wife, who was his able coadjutor. While here, they had the sorrow of losing an infant daughter, Katharine Stanly Geer, who lies buried almost under the eaves of this church. After they left here, my uncle, the late F. A. Shepherd, placed a simple monument to mark her grave. He was born in Wadesboro in 1828, baptized in Calvary Church, afterwards lived for many years in Nashville, Tennessee, and died there January 16th, 1902, and is buried here. He ever retained the deepest love and veneration for his "mother church," and his contributions to this Parish were very liberal from time to time.

Going back to the records, we find that in July, 1845, the Rev. Robert Parham took charge of the Parish and remained for a

time. About two months after he began his work there is recorded the very sad death of Moreau McRae, son of the late Mrs. Alexander Little by her first marriage to Mr. Duncan McRae, own brother of the late Mrs. Ann Eliza Leak, and half-brother of our senior warden, Mr. J. A. Little. Though only eighteen years of age, he is spoken of as a splendid young man, who, after a brave struggle, succumbed to a severe attack of typhoid fever and died at peace with God and man. He was buried in the oldest part of our cemetery, with the consent of the rector, by the Rev. Isaac Swart of the Diocese of South Carolina, and I find this to be the only service performed in our Parish by Mr. Swart.

After Mr. Parham's resignation the congregation was dependent for a time on visiting clergymen and the Bishop's visitations. The Parish was blessed later on with the presence of Rev. Horatio H. Hewitt, a young man just ordained deacon, who was much beloved and did a fine work. In the oldest register extant, we find all along abundant evidence of the faith that helped to build the church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. The following is a list of communicants in the Parish when Mr. Hewitt assumed the rectorship on August 1st, 1852:

> Dr. Walter G. Jones, Mrs. Hampton Hammond, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Flora Howze Ashe, Mrs. Martha Morgan, Mrs. Harriet Strong, Mrs. Thos. S. Ashe, Mrs. Norfleet D. Boggan, Miss Johnstone, Miss Betty Johnstone, Mr. Augustine Shepherd, Mrs. Effie McLaurin Shepherd, Mr. Madden, Mrs Madden, Mrs. H. H. Hewitt, Mr. William Troy, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Hall, Miss Phoebe Willoughby, Mrs. Thos. D. Smith.

On the opposite page we find this marriage recorded:

> May 10th, 1853, Mr. John H. Williamson to Miss Phoebe Willoughby, both of Wadesboro, the ceremony performed in Calvary Church.

Doubtless many of us have heard of Mrs. Unity Rogers, and read the unique inscription on the monument erected to her memory in our cemetery. This is what the record says of her:

> "Unity Rogers, a poor member of the church, who had been for a long time relieved by its alms, died July 28th, 1852, and was buried in the cemetery belonging to the corporation of Wadesboro."
>
> Signed, "H. H. Hewitt, Rector."

On December 13th, 1853, we find recorded the baptism by immersion of Mr. James Madison Waddill, with this note on the side lines:

> "This baptism was by immersion, by the candidate's request."
>
> Signed, "H. H. Hewitt, Rector."

On the second Sunday after Trinity, June 25th, 1854, I find the following confirmations, recorded by Bishop Atkinson:

> Mrs. Harriet Waddill, Miss Eliza Ashe, now Mrs. Amos J. Hines of Wilson, N. C.; Miss Annie R. Ashe, afterwards Mrs. Richard Battle of Raleigh, N. C.; Miss Maria N. Ashe, now Mrs. James C. Marshall; Mrs. Ann Eliza Leak, mother of some of our most devoted church members; Miss Ellen Jones, Mrs. Robert A. Caldwell, Mr. Norfleet D. Boggan.

December 24th, 1854, just sixty-six years ago, we find the Rev. John Beckwith entering upon his pastoral duties. He remained until the spring of 1856, and must have been an able man, as he was afterwards made Bishop of Georgia, and his nephew was made Bishop of Alabama, within my recollection.

Rev. Mr. Beckwith was succeeded here by Rev. S. D. Davenport, who remained for several years and did a good work. I note in his records that in 1857 death reaped a rich harvest in our Parish:

April 3rd of that year, Mrs. Rosa Boggan Bennett, first wife of Dr. John W. Bennett, who was a brother of our faithful member, Mrs. Jos. I. Dunlap; June 17th, Mrs. Thomas C. Lance; October 21st, my aunt, Miss Mary Ann Shepherd; November 13th, Abram Jones; January 12th of the following year, Mrs. Dr. Walter C. Jones, and on February 11th, Patrick Hammond.

As the record states—"All were buried in the town cemetery, southeast of the village."

After Mr. Davenport's resignation, we find Rev. C. F. Bland took charge of the Parish, December 8th, 1862. The war is now on and times that tried men's souls were to be grappled with, and for this reason, not only the Episcopal Church, but the Town of Wadesboro, deemed it a mutual blessing to have in our midst for several years of this unhappy period, the Rt. Rev. Thomas W. Atkinson, Bishop of North Carolina, whose saintly countenance and personal bearing more nearly conformed to my ideal of just what a Bishop should be, than any man I have ever known elevated to the highest order in the ministry.

I remember to have heard my mother say that on one occasion during the war, when the meager news from the scene of hostilities was not encouraging for the Confederate forces, she went home from church one Sunday, to dine with the Bishop and his wife. During the course of her visit, Mrs. Atkinson, whose baptismal name was "Josepha," chanced to remark that after hearing the very comforting prayers the Bishop had offered for our soldiers that day, she felt sure the Lord was on our side and we would be victorious, to which the Bishop very courteously replied: "You must remember, my dear Josepha, the opposing army has the same prayers."

Going back to the records, we find the Rev. Mr. Bland's notes very brief, but I have been told he did a fine work, mingling in and out among those who mourned the loss of loved ones at the front, as sorrow and death go hand in hand during such times as these, but our brave women were wonderfully self-reliant and

rallied to the Confederate flag just as the women of today have done for the flag of the nation. We also find recorded during that period the baptism, marriage and death of many of the slaves, and there were some worthy communicants of the church among the colored race.

On March 4th, 1865, we find above Mr. Bland's signature the following:

> "This day a portion of General Kilpatrick's command was sent to sack our village, which they did, and robbed the church of the few dollars on hand. General Kilpatrick was an officer of Sherman's army, and acting under orders of his commander-in-chief. This is but one of the many churches robbed."

In April, 1865, hostilities ceased, and the painful process of reconstruction began, which our experience of the last two years has taught us is very trying, and doubly so when devastation and poverty were abroad in the land. Mr. Bland was faithful throughout these years, and in addition to the office of priest, and partly for means of a livelihood, as the church finances were low, he conducted a day school in the vestry room of the old church, thereby giving some of his parishioners advantages they otherwise could not have had. Mr. Bland resigned his charge June 4th, 1873, and the register shows that on March 27th, 1874, Rev. J. A. Deal, assumed rectorship. Other notes by him are as follows:

"In the latter part of the year 1874 the ladies began to raise funds for the building of a rectory, which was completed and occupied in August, 1875," largely through the indefatigable work of Mrs. Thos. S. Ashe and Mrs. W. H. James. (I may add that it was situated exactly south of the present graded school.) In 1876 a lot was given by Samuel Morris, an Englishman by birth, who married a daughter of our old parishioner, Mrs. Samantha Seago. Said lot was near his home beyond the depot, and was given for a schoolhouse, also used for religious purposes. Adjoining this, two lots were bought with communion alms, both

containing about four acres, and at the present writing are used for cemetery purposes.

On Easter Monday, 1877, Mr. Deal sent in his resignation, which was accepted to take effect June 1st. He was a good man and afterwards did a wonderful work among the mountain people in our State. Soon after he left us our Parish had the misfortune to lose, on September 29th, 1877, one of its best members and ablest workers, Mrs. Laura Ingraham James, mother of our faithful communicant, George James. Mrs. James was a woman of many Christian attributes, also a woman of many sorrows and acquainted with grief, losing three children, who are buried beside her in our cemetery, and afterwards losing her own life from diphtheria, contracted in an effort to care for some motherless children in our community who were desperately ill with this fearful disease, which medical science had not learned to combat in those days.

> "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for another."

In connection with Mrs. James, I note the interesting fact that two devoted friends of hers, Mr. DeBrutz Cutlar and Miss Marianna Cutlar Poisson, grandparents of our present parishioner, Mrs. K. M. Hardison, were married in Calvary Church on January 22nd, 1865.

January, 1878, brings us to the rectorship of the Rev. A. H. Boyle, and during this year the church was somewhat remodeled, and greatly improved by a new carpet, new seats and chandeliers, also altar cloths, a bronze cross and vases. The latter were in loving memory of Rev. Aldert Smedes, who founded St. Mary's School, and whose oldest daughter, Mrs. Bessie Smedes Leak, was, for a number of years, a resident of our town, and one of our most faithful and generous church members. A woman of remarkable magnetism, wonderful energy, and a gifted organist. Following the death of her husband, the late Moreau Pickett Leak, on April 27th, 1887, after many years of ill health, she returned to Raleigh to live. We regretted very much to have her leave, as few women in our Parish have been more beloved, and her work was invaluable.

Coming back to Rev. Mr. Boyle, I remember him as a man of unusual mentality, an accomplished linguist and a fine preacher. He always had a good Bible class and made a practice of catechizing the Sunday School children regularly, once a month. When I was nine years of age he made a profound impression on me one Sunday afternoon, when I heard him read as the second lesson the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, and afterwards preach from the text in connection with the finding of Moses by Pharaoh's daughter—"Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages."

After Mr. Boyle left, we had for a time the Rev. A. H. Stubbs, who was a native of Connecticut, and after his resignation the Rev. Mr. Mott of Cheraw, supplied our pulpit for a while, but being at school in a distant State for five years, beginning with the fall of 1879, I know little of the workings of the Parish at that time, except during the summer months, as the records are mostly confined to bare facts so far as I have been able to find out. Hence, from 1875 to the completion of this history I am largely drawing on my memory, except the data I have obtained from books kept while I was secretary of the Parish Guild for twenty-five years. This was organized in 1883 by a few faithful women, at the home of Mrs. M. P. Leak, and has been in existence ever since, doing a splendid work as to local charity, and sometimes reaching out into broader fields. Other splendid organizations are the Woman's Auxiliary, the Altar Guild and the Junior Auxiliary.

The church records show the Rev. Chas. C. Quin came here from Charlotte on September 11th, 1883, to perform the last sad rites for Mr. Hampton B. Hammond, a former member of this church and grandfather of a number of our present parishioners. Mr. Quin made a favorable impression on this occasion, was called to be its rector a month later, and remained for eleven years. He was devoted to the Parish, and during this time the old house of worship, consecrated in 1831, was taken down, and the corner-stone of our present edifice laid, on July 27th, 1892. I remember well with what joy and delight we gathered for our first services

Interior of Calvary Church, Wadesboro, N. C., Showing Christmas Decorations in 1922

in the new church which were held on Easter Day, April 2nd, 1893, morning and afternoon. I find noted in my Guild book that the offertory of fifteen dollars on this day was applied to the church-building fund. We were thankful for small favors in those days.

In May of this year the late Bishop T. B. Lyman, who was my guest that day, made his annual visitation to this Parish, preached a powerful sermon, congratulated the congregation on the completion of our new church and stated that he hoped it would soon be entirely free from debt and he would be called on to consecrate it. However, God willed otherwise, as he died the 13th of the following December.

On June 8th, 1893, the Parish was visited by a very sad dispensation in the death of Mrs. Alice Leak Little, at the premature age of thirty-one years. Apart from being a consecrated Christian woman, she possessed the finest natural voice I ever heard, and I feel sure those of us who knew and loved her, are drawn closer to God when we think of the liquid melody that poured from her throat at many of our services, and it is a cherished belief of mine that she has since added many a melodious note to the celestial choir. It was rather a coincidence that her funeral was the first held from the new church, and that of her father, the Hon. James A. Leak, who died March 26th, 1892, the last from the old church. Her mother passed away on January 14th, 1897. Another notable funeral I recall from the old church, was that of Hon. Thos. S. Ashe, who died on February 4th, 1887, and his devoted wife, Mrs. Caroline Burgwin Ashe, on March 6th, 1894. Both were of distinguished lineage; Judge Ashe coming here from Hillsboro in 1837, liked our little town so well he went back to claim his bride and they lived here over fifty years. They were towers of strength in church work, rooted and grounded in the faith, and have been faithfully represented in our Parish for many years. In April, 1894, we were blessed with a session of the Charlotte Convocation, and the attendance of a number of clergymen. The Rt. Rev. Joseph B. Cheshire, who succeeded Bishop Lyman, was present, coming especially to consecrate our new church edifice,

on April 18th, 1894. The service was most impressive, and the Rev. F. J. Murdock, a very able man, for many years rector of St. Luke's Church, Salisbury, preached the consecration sermon, taking for his text, "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thine honor dwelleth." He spoke in glowing terms of the beautiful church with its handsome chancel furnishings, contributed by zealous women of St. John's Chapel, a branch of Trinity Church in New York City, where our rector was in training. The Altar and Credence Table were the handiwork of Mr. Silas McBee, formerly of Lincolnton, for many years a resident of New York City. After Mr. Quin's resignation we were ministered to frequently by the Rev. E. A. Osborne, and other clergymen. In the latter part of the year 1895 the Parish was visited by a very great sorrow in the death of Miss Maria Nash Marshall, aged 22 years, whose beautifully unselfish life came to a close on the evening of December 12th, after a brief illness of typhoid fever. She was ever ready and willing to do her part in any branch of church work and gave promise of a life of much usefulness, which has doubtless redounded to the glory of God in her Heavenly home. Resting in the cornerstone of our church is a beautiful little Prayer Book, which was given her when quite a child, by the rector, Rev. A. H. Boyle, in recognition of her faithfulness and early consecration to God.

During the winter of 1896, the Rev. Chas. Fetter came from Kernersville to preach for us, and the whole congregation was so impressed with his frank, open manner and forceful style of speech that he was extended a call to take charge of this church, which he did in April of that year, and remained till June, 1900. During his rectorship the Parish was blessed with a number of additions, and his faithful life of consecration made a lasting impression on our entire population. Men and women will tell you today how they loved Mr. Fetter, and his words of truth and soberness, as well as clear-cut, logical reasoning, have many times rung in our ears and helped us over stumbling places. One of the most powerful pleas I ever heard made to Almighty God, was an extempore prayer made by him at the open grave of an

uncle of mine who was buried in the country. We were very loath to accept Mr. Fetter's resignation, and were again dependent on visits from Archdeacon Osborne, who was called to minister to us, but could not see his way clear to leave his important work at the Thompson Orphanage in Charlotte. During this period, Mr. Osborne, who is one of the saintliest men that ever lived, came in and out among us, baptised our children, married our young people, preached to the living, ministered to the sick and afflicted and buried the dead. We count it a glorious privilege to have him with us today to dedicate the stone wall around the church yard, erected this year by the women of the Parish, in loving memory of the "faithful departed."

May 1st, 1901, the Parish again mourns the loss of one of the most consecrated Christians I have ever known, Mrs. Dora M. Hargrave. For many years her familiar seat in church was seldom vacant; rain or shine, sleet or snow, found her in God's house, till her health gave way completely, death finally relieved her sufferings, and beautiful May blossoms covered her grave.

We come now to the pastorate of the Rev. Geo. M. Tolson, which began in the summer of 1901 and lasted for eighteen months. He was a faithful shepherd, a fine worker among children, and one of the best Sunday Schools we ever had was during his residence here. He left us for a broader field of work, but came back in April, 1903, to lay to rest Mrs. Rosa Ann Dennis, one of the most exemplary Christians I can recall, and a woman who for many years helped to support a large family by plying her needle from day to day.

Following Mr. Tolson, whom we regret to say has since been claimed by death, the Rev. Gilbert Higgs came to us from Key West, Florida. He was a man of splendid mental attainments and a courteous Christian gentleman. His most notable work among us was the organization of a vested choir, which has, I hope, added somewhat to the impressiveness of our services. What little help I have been able to render has been most freely given, and I can say the same of my sister, Mrs. R. E. Little, who has been our main organist for over thirty-five years.

To return to our records: in June, 1906, the Rev. C. L. Martin, a native of Maryland, was called here from Monroe, and remained for a year. He was a splendid organizer, a good preacher and a useful man in many ways. An architect by nature, and it was during his pastorate that the heavy woodwork which formed a part of the chancel, was removed, and the chancel changed to make room for the choir. It was with much regret that we gave him up, but deemed ourselves most fortunate to again secure the services of Rev. Chas. Fetter, who had been in distant states. One of the most beautiful Easter Day services within my recollection was in 1908, when he had come back to us for years of usefulness, we hoped, and to share with us and his faithful wife the enjoyment of our new rectory, which was completed that year. Unfortunately, his health gave way completely, and God called him to a higher work on September 26th, 1908. He was buried here on Sunday, with an impressive service, led by the Rt. Rev. Joseph B. Cheshire, assisted by Rev. E. A. Osborne and Rev. W. J. Smith of Charlotte. In December, 1908, the Rev. W. H. Ball, a native of England, who was then located in Charlotte, was sent by Bishop Cheshire to have service for us, and was afterwards called by the vestry, remaining for eighteen months. He was a good man, deeply pious, and gave us many pleasant services, also solicited contributions for a memorial to Rev. Chas. Fetter, which took the form of a gold chalice and paten, for the celebration of the Holy Communion (a handsome gold chain and pyx, also being contributed by a generous member of the congregation). After leaving here Rev. Mr. Ball lived with friends in Monroe, dying suddenly, and being buried there in October, 1918. Our next rector was the Rev. C. G. Bradley, who was an able man, but was here only a short while.

No history of Calvary Parish would be complete without some reference made to the life and death of William Leak Steele, who was born November 16th, 1845, and died suddenly on November 6th, 1911. He was Junior Warden and Treasurer of the Parish for many years. A staunch churchman, a versatile man in the line of church work, a devout and faithful soldier and servant

unto his life's end. Our processional cross stands as a memorial to him. Resting beside him in our beautiful cemetery are his sister and her husband, the late Captain and Mrs. J. M. Little, for many years devout members of Calvary Church. In a nearby lot sleeps another faithful member of the same family, Miss Mary E. Little, the devoted sister of our Senior Warden, who died June 2nd, 1914. Other members whose loss we mourn, and who have gone to be numbered with the saints in Glory Everlasting, are: Hon. Jas. A. Lockhart, and wife, Mrs. Caroline Ashe Lockhart, Mr. William Cameron Hardison, Dr. E. F. Ashe, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Bennett, Mr. James C. Marshall, Captain Frank Bennett, Mrs. Mary Bennett Smith of Ansonville, Mr. John G. Hill and latterly, his wife Mrs. Eugenia Hill.

The congregation will bear with me if I remember with love and affection my dear mother, Mrs. Kate Shepherd Bennett, whose peaceful life came to a close on May 4th, 1916, after a long illness, borne with the Christian resignation and fortitude which characterized her life. At the time of her death she was the oldest communicant of the Parish, having seen four score years of uninterrupted service to God, and of beautiful devotion to her family and her friends. A vase of Christmas greens, standing today in what she lovingly called "her window," reminds many of us of her faithfulness and love of the church as long as life lasted. Her beautiful funeral service was held in this church, and she rests beside my father, the late Col. R. T. Bennett, at his family burial ground two miles west of town on the Charlotte road. He died July 21st, 1913, and both were tenderly consigned to the grave by the late Samuel M. Hanff, in the presence of many sympathizing friends and relatives.

On May 12th, 1916, just one week after my mother's obsequies, the burial service was read by Rev. Mr. Hanff for Captain Nicholas Schenck, a charming old gentleman, formerly of Wilmington, who was taken there for burial, but who died here at the home of his devoted daughter, Mrs. E. N. Baker, who with her husband are two of the most loyal church members and most valuable assets we have gained from a distance. They came to us from New

Bern, N. C., in the fall of 1912, and have been faithful and regular in their attendance. Mr. Baker has rendered valuable help in the choir with his splendid voice, and Mrs. Baker is one of the most efficient and versatile church workers we have had in our midst. Other acquisitions to our Parish of recent years have been Mrs. W. C. Hardison, Mrs. K. M. Hardison, Mrs. Sadie M. Leak, Mrs. Jas. A. Leak, Mrs. F. J. Coxe, Mrs. J. P. Wyatt, Mrs. T. A. Marshall, Mrs. W. L. Marshall, Mrs. Pines Murray, Mrs. Risden Little, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. A. Hardison, Mr. Hardison being a vestryman and Mrs. Hardison for a number of years secretary of the Parish Guild and efficient in whatever her hand finds to do; Mr. Sam Houston, Messrs. W. T. and John Paisley, formerly of Nashville, Tenn., and last, but by no means least in the category of usefulness and devoted consecration, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. S. Webb, formerly of Reidsville, N. C. Mr. Webb has for years been Treasurer of the Parish and a thoroughly dependable church worker. Mrs. Webb is the efficient President of the Altar Guild and Mrs. W. L. Marshall the Secretary.

In this connection, I would say, no history of the later years of Calvary Church would be complete without special mention of Mrs. Thomas A. Marshall's indefatigable and faithful efforts as Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary covering a period of fifteen years, during which time she has done a splendid work, along with other capable presidents, Mrs. John T. Bennett, Mrs. W. P. Parsons, Mrs. E. N. Baker, Mrs. R. E. Little, and perhaps some I do not recall just now. I would say just here, that some of our most consecrated women, Mrs. T. B. Wyatt, Mrs. Terrell Covington, Mrs. James C. Marshall, Miss Josephine Ashe, the late Mrs. Jas. A. Lockhart, the late Mrs. R. T. Bennett and others, have been unable to hold office, but have guided and encouraged us by their precept and example, and helped to uphold the standards of our faith.

We come now to the rectorship of the late Rev. Samuel Merrill Hanff, which began September 1st, 1912, and covered a period of five years. It was marked by much activity and a number of accessions to the church, also the installation of our beautiful

organ which he loved so dearly, the entire renovation of the church walls and laying of a new carpet, as well as making over anew the interior of the Parish house, which was enlarged to its present size in 1903, and has been a most useful adjunct in our parochial work. The very mention of Mr. Hanff's name brings joy into our hearts, for the happy recollection of his stay among us, his wonderful personality, his genial manner, his ever ready wit, yet his love of reverence and consecration to God, his potent influence for good in our community. For all of these do we thank God, and sorrow, not as those without hope, that after regretfully giving him up to All Saints Church, Concord, we were called upon to share with them, and with his family and a multitude of friends, the inexpressible sorrow of giving him up by death on February 12th, 1919, after a brief illness, following an operation at a hospital in Statesville, N. C. A number of our people attended his funeral at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh, and I believe I voice the sentiments of the entire congregation, and the citizens of our town, when I say that no death that has cast its shadow upon us, has caused more genuine nor more lasting regret. It will doubtless be of interest to the congregation here assembled to know that in keeping with his life of activity here, this beautiful text, "Alive unto God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord," is engraven upon the stone which marks his grave in Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, N. C. May God bless his devoted wife and children and inspire our people to greater efforts on behalf of the "Hanff Memorial," when a better day may dawn in the financial world.

I have heard it said that "Listeners never hear any good of themselves," but this rule does not apply when we come to speak within his hearing, of the Rev. Basil M. Walton, who has been with us for two years and feels, I hope, that he has accomplished much good. At any rate, we feel that he has, and we have enjoyed his ministrations, also the sweet companionship of his wife and baby. Since Mr. Walton has been here we have had much of joy and much of sorrow, as the fearful epidemics of the past two years brought about an unprecedented amount of illness,

into which he went without reserve, ministering unto many outside his own communion, and doing it with cheerful, willing heart, and entire consecration to his work as a shepherd of souls. We hope to keep him as long as we can, but wherever he may go, our sincere good wishes will follow him and the other members of his household.

I deem it a privilege to have been asked to prepare this church history. While a little trying at such a busy season, having all been done within the past week, it has given me much pleasant research, which I hope may be of some benefit to future generations. We all love our beautiful Church; we love the Cross that rests on our altar; we love its tenets, its foundation stones and its spire that points the way to Heaven. While we have never had a very extended list of members, we have held our own in many ways with other religious bodies, and counted among our ranks a number of the foremost citizens of the State, who have been devout followers of the Blessed Saviour, who comes to us with renewed beauty and glory each year at the blessed Christmas season. We do thank God that He was born into the world to redeem us from sin and show us the way to Everlasting Life. We hope the future holds much that is good and beautiful and true for the rising generations, and that they will ever be on the alert to grasp the golden opportunities that will come to them to help uphold the Cross of Christ and follow the Saviour's last command.

In conclusion, and in all humility, I would use the beautiful benediction which has come down to us from the time of Moses:

> "The Lord bless us, and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and evermore.—AMEN."

ADDENDUM

OWING to an unavoidable delay in the publication of this history, which is very much regretted, two years have elapsed since our Centennial Celebration, which marked an important event in the Parish. After the most diligent and untiring efforts on the part of the writer to obtain entirely suitable and satisfactory pictures of the interior and exterior of the church, this pamphlet now goes forward for publication. It has been, truly, a labor of love, but I trust not "Love's labor lost," as I hope those of the present generation who survive, and those who follow in our footsteps will love and revere it for what it memorializes, will place it among our most cherished treasures, also send to friends and relatives who have gone from among us, but will always have implanted in their hearts the sincerest affection for Calvary Church, Wadesboro.

To continue this brief addendum I would say, the Rev. B. M. Walton, who was rector of the Parish when the Centennial exercises were held, tendered his resignation about January 1st, 1921, to take effect a month later, when he went to Lenoir, N. C. After this, though striving diligently to fill the vacancy, we were without a regular pastor for nearly a year. In this interval we were ministered to a number of times by the Rev. John Lloyd, who was then at Pinehurst, and other clergymen, including our regular visitation from Bishop Cheshire, and the Sunday School and various church organizations were kept actively at work. Again I may say, in this interval the Rev. T. P. Opie was twice called to the rectorship of the Parish, but finding his work at Red Springs and elsewhere thoroughly congenial, and believing there was still much to be accomplished in his field, declined to leave his flock. However, we shall in future believe more firmly than ever in the familiar saying, "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good," as he very strongly recommended to us the Rev. J. F. Hamaker, then at Greensboro, Alabama, where he was in charge of St. Paul's Church for seven years. Our vestry at once extended

a call to Mr. Hamaker, who came up to look us over, and to our great delight accepted the call and took charge of the Parish early in January, 1922. At this writing he has been with us just a year, and to say he has done a fine work, that his rendition of the service is just what we wish, that we are greatly attached to him and his charming family, that his wonderfully sympathetic and eloquent sermons are "a feast of reason and a flow of soul," is but a feeble expression of the esteem and affection in which he is held.

Foremost in his work for the past year will stand for many a day to come, the eight-day mission he arranged from October 29th to November 5th, inclusive, conducted by Archdeacon Percy C. Webber of Boston, Massachusetts. A man of international reputation, a marvelous and wonderful preacher, seemingly saturated with power from on high, having been to the remotest corners of the earth and preached in every clime and under every possible condition, a man whose wonderful consecration to Almighty God appeals to saints and sinners alike, it was the consensus of opinion that no more soul-stirring sermons have ever been heard here. His mission in Calvary Church began each day with an early celebration of the Holy Communion, the attendance at which almost trebled itself from first to last, and has, I trust, left an indelible impression on the hearts of our people that will stimulate them to go forward with renewed zeal and energy in the Master's cause. All the services during the mission were well attended, concluding with a wonderful union service at the Baptist Church on Sunday evening.

The year just closed likewise cast its shadows, as we lost by death several much beloved members who were faithful in many ways, consecrated Christian women, who remembered that each day yields its blessings, and were true servants of God and instruments of His glory. Perhaps the greatest shock to us, as it was so totally unexpected, and the circumstances so unusually sad, was the sudden taking away of Mrs. Olive Dunlap Houston, aged forty-two years, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph I. Dunlap and beloved wife of Samuel M. Houston, who had played

the organ very beautifully at the evening service the Sunday before, only to be stricken with a severe illness as she was leaving the church, which continued to increase in intensity and terminated with her death about eight-thirty the following Thursday night, being March 23rd, 1922. Awaiting the arrival of relatives, the funeral was not held until the following Sunday afternoon, when the beautiful burial service and several hymns were read by the Rev. J. F. Hamaker, the organ being closed in deference to the wishes of the deceased and her family. The church and church yard were filled to overflowing with friends and relatives, and as beautiful flowers as have been seen here, were sent in loving memory of one now wrapped in eternal sleep, who had given such unspeakable pleasure in life with the most exquisite music, which seemed rather to flow from the ends of her fingers than from the keys of the instrument she touched. With what wonderful Christian resignation the devoted mother bore this inexpressible sorrow, we all know. Infirm in health, a patient sufferer by day and by night, her heart crushed and bleeding, but not infirm of purpose, as day by day her face bore the same gentle smile, and her faith in God and submission to the Divine Will seemed to increase till she, too, fell "Asleep in Jesus," on Sunday morning, August 20th, 1922, only to awake in Paradise and find at the river's brink the loved ones who had gone before. She was a consecrated Christian in thought, word and deed, a wonderful church worker as long as her health would permit, and we can all look back upon her as a benediction to the community.

On June 30th, 1922, at the home of her niece, Mrs. Preston B. Huntley, in Cheraw, S. C., after many months of ill health, death came peacefully and triumphantly to Mrs. Rebecca Reddy Covington, who was a life-long member of the Episcopal Church and a regular attendant at Calvary Church, Wadesboro, for thirty years. Mrs. Covington was born in Ireland in 1848, of splendid ancestry, and was brought by her parents to America when quite an infant. They finally settled in Cheraw, and being a cultured woman, she was a tower of strength in old Saint David's

Church, Cheraw, for many years, and faithful in every relation of life during her long residence in Wadesboro. It was my privilege to know her intimately in joy and sorrow, and I can truthfully say, though her eyes were frequently dim with the tears that will come with years of infirmity and weakness, her faith never wavered, and hers was a brave, courageous spirit to the end.

We regretted very much to lose on August 21st, 1921, Mrs. Maria Ashe Marshall, widow of the late James C. Marshall, and daughter of the late Judge Thomas S. and Mrs. Caroline Burgwin Ashe. Mrs. Marshall was born and married in Wadesboro, and throughout her entire life, which was one of quiet, unobtrusive consecration to God, she was a devoted member of Calvary Church. Her two splendid sons, Messrs. Thomas A. and Wm. L. Marshall, are still among our most faithful and loyal parishioners, while her devoted daughter, Mrs. H. I. DePass, is a communicant of the Church of the Holy Comforter, Charlotte, N. C.

On January 1st, of the present year, being 1923, Miss Josephine Ashe, a sister of Mrs. Marshall, died at a private sanitarium in Morganton, where she had been under treatment for over two years, and was buried here the next day. Her funeral service was at Calvary Church, which she loved with all her heart and soul, and supported most loyally as long as her strength would permit. The two sisters were charter members of the Parish Guild and Woman's Auxiliary, and were ever responsive to any call for help in the hour of need or prosperity. With all these inroads of sorrow, the signs of the times are hopeful and we still have a great deal to be thankful for. Our Sunday School and church services are usually well attended, though, as in most churches, not always what they should be. Sickness deters many of the faithful in winter, and some people will never fully appreciate their inestimable privileges until the opportunty is lost.

I believe I voice the sentiments of the entire congregation when I say we are all delighted to have come back to us, after an absence of nine years in Rockingham, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Bennett and family, all loyal church members, Mrs. Bennett having been rooted and grounded in the faith since early childhood, and as enthusiastic in the Sunday School and for the cause

of missions, in the broadest sense of the term, as anyone who has dwelt among us.

We are very grateful for two beautiful memorials not chronicled in the first part of this history. One, an elegant Bible, used for the first time at our Centennial exercises, and given by Mr. and Mrs. James A. Hardison as a thank offering for the safe return from the late World War of their two sons, Herman and James A. Hardison, Jr., both communicants of the church, and loyal in their support. The other, a beautiful sterling silver breadbox, to be used in the celebration of the Holy Communion, given by one of our most faithful young women, Mrs. Sadie M. Leak, in loving memory of Mrs. Kate Shepherd Bennett, who died May 4th, 1916, and Mrs. Charlotte Bennett Dunlap, August 20th, 1922. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

As a parting word, I would say, that if I have omitted anything of vital importance, either personal or ecclesiastical, I ask that it be looked upon as an error of the hand and not of the heart.

May our Heavenly Father, in the abundance of His mercy, guide and bless us and may the Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts as we go forward from day to day in our work at home, and for the cause of Christ.

PRESSES OF
EDWARDS & BROUGHTON PRINTING CO.
RALEIGH

N.C 204 Z99A v.1 nos.1-23
308285

CALL NUMBER
N.C
204

Vol.
1 1 2

Date (for periodical)
1966 - 31

N.C 204 Z99A v.1 nos.1-23
308285